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Tells Congressmen USA
Needs Spiritual Power

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Baptist members of the United States Congress were honored by the First Baptist church here. Edward Hughes Pruden is the pastor.

Speaking on "America Faces Stern Realities," Pruden pointed out that "we will make a tragic error if we put our complete trust in material defenses." He continued, "This course permits our potential enemy to choose the weapons and set the pace. We would do well to look to a source of strength unknown to the enemy, even the Sword of the Spirit."

Pruden's sermon declared that it is not enough to recognize the danger which Communist imperialism presents to the free world. "We must go beyond that to discern what it is about Communism which makes it such a formidable foe."

Communist rejection of God, and the over-rating and under-rating of man are mistakes on both sides of the controversy of the era in which we live, according to Pruden. Man must not be over-rated by thinking that he can create a "human Utopia," nor must he be under-rated by taking away his God-given rights and dignity.

The sermon concluded with a note of optimism as Pruden declared that God will not permit oppression, falsehood, and imperialism to prevail in the earth.

Several Baptist Congressmen not attached to other Washington churches were invited to a reception at the First Baptist Church. The church has a monthly coffee hour following the morning service. The Congressmen were special guests at the first coffee hour after the convening of Congress. It met with such favorable response, says Pruden, that the church plans to make it an annual affair.

In explaining why the church invited the Congressmen, Pruden said that the church wished to extend a welcome and church courtesies to Congressmen while they are in Washington.

Although most Baptist Congressmen maintain their church memberships in their home towns, many of the Washington churches have a system of associate memberships whereby temporary residents can participate in church life at the nation's capital.

Present at the church reception were Sens. Theodore F. Green (D., R.I.), Frank Carlson (R., Kans.), Estes Kefauver (D., Tenn.), Robert S. Kerr (D., Okla.),

John S. Cooper (R., Ky.), and Strom Thurmond (D., S. C.).

Representatives present were J. Carlton Loser (D., Tenn.) and R. Paul Kitchen (D., N. C.).

Sen. Kerr regularly teaches a Bible class at First Baptist Church.

At the first session of the 85th Congress there were 54 Baptists in the House of Representatives and 13 in the Senate. Methodists led both houses with 85 in the House and 18 in the Senate.

Roman Catholics were second in the House with 73 members, but Baptists were second in the Senate.

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J. M. Dawson Discusses
Denomination's Future

WASHINGTON--(BP)--J. M. Dawson, veteran minister and noted Baptist author and denominational leader, discusses the future of Southern Baptists in the Jan. 20 issue of Christianity Today magazine.

What is the future of Southern Baptists? "Assuredly it is not extinction," according to Dawson. He said the "direct potential threat to the future of Southern Baptists' ongoing is internal unity."

Dawson was the first executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington. He is presently a vice-president of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Dawson's further interest in religious liberty may be noted by the fact that two years ago Broadman Press published his book, "Baptists and the American Republic," in which he reviews Baptists in their church-state relations.

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Baptist Press

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY SITE---This aerial photograph shows the site being bought for Midwestern Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. The area contained in the heavily-marked lines is the 99-acre site available immediately. The area in dotted lines at lower right is the five acres retained by Mrs. Sheffa Vivion Foster who sold her century-old family estate to the seminary. She said she plans to will the five acres, including the home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Foster, to the seminary. The home will probably be future residence of the seminary president. Construction of the first seminary building may begin this autumn. Note three federal highways adjacent to property.--Photo from Kansas City Star.